

MSA President, Ian Bright, presents Tom Goldthorpe of Denton Corker Marshall with their award.

Manchester Award winners

The Manchester Civil Justice Centre by architect Denton Corker Marshall, was the overall winner of the Manchester Society of Architects Design Award 2008. Other winners, announced recently at a ceremony at CUBE, included Stephenson Bell Architects for House 784, BDP for Abito Apartments and Aintree Racecourse, Ombler Iwanowski Architects for The Zenith Building and Austin-Smith:Lord for John Rylands Library.



Simone Ridyard

3DR Reid

Simone Ridyard has recently joined 3DR Reid as Associate Director of the Manchester office, moving from JM Architects. Simone will be strengthening the existing 20-strong Manchester team and will be responsible for a number of commercial developments across the region.

Verve Place Housing

John McCall Architects has just completed a scheme in Mersey Street, Warrington which provides accommodation and support for young people who need housing and to enable them to make the transition to independence. The project is a collaboration between Warrington Council and Arena Housing Association.



Architruck in Cumbria

Does being a World Heritage Site introduce additional planning policy restraint?

The Lake District is England's largest National Park; it includes some 885 square miles including Scafell Pike, England's highest mountain and Wastwater, its deepest lake. The Lake District World Heritage Project is working on a possible nomination to the UK Government and UNESCO which is planned for 2011. If successful it would bring World Heritage Status to the Lake District in Britain's Olympic year, 2012.

One concern from the wider community is the notion that WHS status would lead to additional controls, particularly planning within the National Park. A statement has been produced by the LDNPA which says that it does not believe WHS status will incur additional restraints over and above those which already exist. This statement was tested by RIBA North West who hosted an event at the end of April.

The day, chaired by Tom Lonsdale, included speakers from the Local Authority World Heritage Forum, ICOMOS-UK, Liverpool City Council and included a presentation on the Waterhead Feasibility Study.

The afternoon centred around workshops considering the aspirations of the Lake District National Park and how World Heritage Site (WHS) status might affect those aspirations. Would it introduce additional restraint? If so, how could this be addressed?

The workshops highlighted that the Lake District WHS Steering Group should focus on the opportunities WHS can bring, rather than be too tied up with debates over possible restrictions. There was consensus that it will not be another restrictive layer stifling development.

The challenge set to the Steering Group is for it to be clear as to why it wants WHS status – yes it should be about social and economic benefits,

consolidating joint working but, most importantly, be concerned with stewarding those aspects which make it unique?

The bid needs to be strong about the basis in which it would be made – whether it be the geology, cultural associations, or other qualities. The layers need to be clearly understood and clearly communicated. This will provide a tool for consensus building.

How WHS is defined to the community is crucial. It is not because it is a landscape that must be preserved as it is at all costs. But it is about being a culturally diverse, constantly evolving landscape with people living and working within it. It is about maintaining and developing this and making it the best we can. People will then understand what and why. It should be seen as leading to an improvement in quality of planning and design – leading the way in, for example, sustainable construction. But also asserting that modern design may be appropriate – recognising a changing landscape.

Conclusion

The general consensus of opinion was that WHS status would have no additional planning control but conversely may be a tool and an opportunity to foster the development of the area as well as a lever to insist on even higher quality in the built environment than we already do as a National Park.

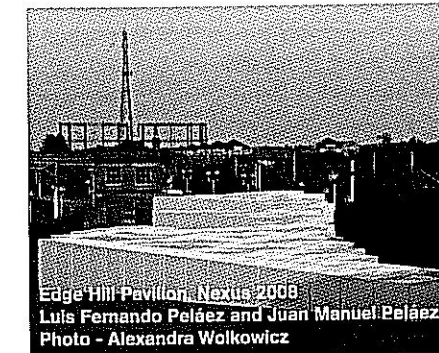
WHS status should be seen as a new light shining on the Lake District, requiring clarity of thought and aspiration about its future.

For more information about the bid visit www.lakeswhs.co.uk

Architruck Lake District Tour

During April and May Architruck visited 23 towns across Cumbria giving the local community and visitors the opportunity to discuss the proposed bid in more detail.

The Mere



Edge Hill Pavilion, Nexus 2008
Luis Fernando Peláez and Juan Manuel Peláez
Photo - Alexandra Wolkowicz

Three Liverpool pavilions

Three specially commissioned pavilions have been launched in three Liverpool neighbourhoods for the city's year as European Capital of Culture. In Kirkdale, Rotunda worked with landscape architects Gross Max to develop a strip of derelict land into a community garden which will host activities and events. Metal in Kensington invited artist and architect, father and son team Luis Fernando Peláez and Juan Manuel Peláez from Colombia, to transform the disused approach to Edge Hill Station, called Nexus. Finally, artist Michael Trainor, working closely with Garston Cultural Village, transformed Garston's boundaries into the Artistic Republic of Garston, making the existing school building into Garston's civic Embassy.

Transformation for The Mere

The Mere, a 2.5 hectare site of an old deck access scheme just north of Bolton town centre, has been transformed with a mixed tenure development of 107 houses, flats and bungalows by Bernard Taylor Partnership. The built forms are diverse but have a strong homogeneous identity, achieved with a limited palette of materials.

Hodder heads Professional Advisory Board

The Manchester School of Architecture has established a Professional Advisory Board, chaired by Stephen Hodder MBE, to cement and develop connections with the profession and industry. The board will comment on resources, facilities and other strategic institutional developments and how this might affect the MSA in delivering world class professionals. It is also hoped that this might extend to advice and feedback on programme and management as the Board becomes more established.

- An open studio day in October for third year students during which students will visit participating practices, and acquaint themselves with the range of practices and the environment within

which they would wish to experience their year-out.

- A student – professional mentoring network which could be web and practice based

In addition, subject to sponsorship, it is hoped that an annual world-class lecture series will be established with the emphasis on the student / professional interface.

Stephen Hodder would like to hear from practices who would be willing to participate in either of the two initiatives. A letter of invitation from the Board will be sent to all practices this summer.

Correction

Central Rail Station, St Helens, Merseyside. The Fairhursts Design Group was involved in this scheme before it was subjected to a tender process which was won by SBS Architects.

We want your news! If you have something you would like to put forward for inclusion in the news section for the next issue of A magazine please e-mail it to anna.johnson@member.riba.org